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NEWS ADVISORY

VA Puget Sound to dedicate new South Sound Community Based Outpatient Clinic

CHEHALIS, Wash. --- Sterling Medical Associates and VA Puget Sound Health Care System are proud to announce the dedication of South Sound Community Based Outpatient Clinic June 4, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the new clinic in the Lewis County Mall located at 151 NE Hampe Way, Suite B2-6, Chehalis WA, 98532. The public is welcome to attend. The mall provides ample parking, excellent access to public transportation, and offers a myriad of other public services.

Opening in mid-May, the clinic will serve the more than 6,000 Veterans living in Lewis, Thurston and the surrounding counties with primary and mental health care along with social work, lab, and basic X-Ray services. Initial pharmacy prescriptions will be filled in the local community; with ongoing prescription medications filled by VA pharmacies.

Sterling Medical Associates currently manages more than 14 primary care clinics throughout the United States. "We are thrilled to be partnering with this respected health care group," said Ms. DeAnn Lestenkof, acting director for VA Puget Sound Health Care System. "They have experience as one of the largest providers of health care services to government agencies, HMOs, hospitals, and clinics nationwide, and demonstrate that they are well prepared to serve Veterans living in Thurston and Lewis Counties and the surrounding communities."

Lestenkof adds, "Veterans who currently receive their care through VA Puget Sound and live in the immediate area will have a choice of continuing their care with their current VA provider or transferring their care to the new South Sound Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)."

For Veterans who are not currently enrolled in VA health care, but would like to receive care at the new clinic, please call 1-800-329-8387, extension 76542 to request that an enrollment packet be sent. Veterans not yet enrolled may also go on-line at www.va.gov.

Current VA Puget Sound patients may contact VA Puget Sound Health Care System Centralized Call Center to transfer their care to the new clinic at 1-800-329-8387 (select option #2).

Media are directed to contact VA Puget Sound Public Affairs at:
publicaffairspugetsound@va.gov or by phone at (206) 764-2435 or (206) 764-2317.